

20 March 2023

Requesters name redacted for
proactive release

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18–901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 28530

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I refer to your email of 27 February 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), which have been numbered for ease of reference:

- 1. A list of offers of support from sovereign states which have been referred to NEMA by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, or the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, regarding Cyclone Gabrielle?*
- 2. If any offers have been referred to NEMA, what support was offered and by which sovereign states was it offered?*
- 3. If any offers have been referred to NEMA, which of these were accepted and which were rejected?*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) has received 17 offers of support from the following international partners¹ regarding Cyclone Gabrielle: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, Israel, Japan, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Taiwan, Tokelau, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Offers of support received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (MFA) are referred to the Ministry for consideration. The Ministry then refers all offers of support to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

The following three offers were accepted by New Zealand:

International partner	Offer of support
Australia	Urban Search and Rescue team, Australian Defence Force deployment comprising of x33 personnel (two C27J aircraft plus crew, aircraft load team, environmental health team).
Fiji	x25 Fiji Defence Force, x3 Fiji Fire Authority, x5 National Disaster Management Office personnel.
United States	USAID team of 14 personnel from the Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs.

¹ While the requestor has specifically asked for information on offers from 'sovereign states', we have included all offers received from New Zealand's international partners, including those not from sovereign states.

Details of the remaining 14 offers of support have either been declined or are being reviewed for compatibility against current needs and are withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade